

Pep Guardiola's gamble pays off as Manchester City keep dream alive

Real Madrid 1 Manchester City 2

[Henry Winter](#), Chief Football Writer

Thursday February 27 2020, 12.01am, The Times



De Bruyne slotted in from the spot after Carvajal's rash tackle on Sterling inside the area

DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

Match summary



Real Madrid 1 - 2 Manchester City



HT 0-0

Champions League 20:00 Wednesday February 26 2020

Venue
Santiago Bernabéu

Attendance
75,615

Referee
Daniele Orsato

- Benjamin Mendy29'
- Gabriel Jesus78'
- Kevin De Bruyne83'

- Federico Valverde48'
- Luka Modric54'
 - Isco60'
- Sergio Ramos86'

This was the famous night for Manchester City when they took it to Real Madrid and stuck it to Uefa. The banned played on and played a brand of tactically sophisticated football that confirmed Pep Guardiola's remarkable ability to innovate and inspire.

The Pep playbook is a work of pioneering par excellence. City were fluid and fast. They were constantly shooting, managing 16 attempts on goal, eight on target. They were deservedly victorious.

City may have fallen out with Uefa, and are fighting their two-season suspension from European football through the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), but they are falling in love with the Champions League. The passion for the trophy beats strongest within Guardiola — who won it twice with Barcelona, guaranteeing him a toxic reception here — and he craves a third.

He devised a game plan that completely outfoxed Zinedine Zidane's men. Sergio Agüero, Fernandinho, Raheem Sterling and David Silva began on the bench despite being expected to start. Such was the surprise at Guardiola's selection that City fans could have been forgiven for wanting the team-sheet taken to CAS to be overturned. Gabriel Jesus wide? No centre forward? Lesson: never doubt Guardiola. He had analysed Real, sought a plan to get at and behind their back four and set Raphaël Varane and Sergio Ramos a particular problem for a centre back: nobody to mark.

Jesus was on the left, even left back after 15 minutes but drifted in to promising effect, often having the beating of Dani Carvajal. Riyad Mahrez was wide right, frequently covering back to help Kyle Walker to deal with Ferland Mendy and Vinícius Júnior.

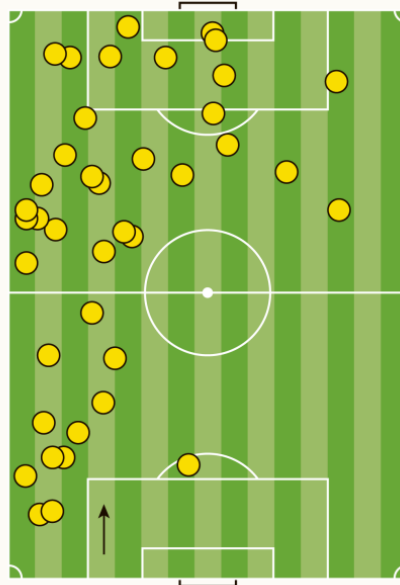
City's main central attacking thrusts emanated from Bernardo Silva and Kevin De Bruyne, pressing and breaking from their forward midfield stations. Rodri and Ilkay Gündogan were behind De Bruyne and Bernardo, forming another barricade in Real's way. But Guardiola's influence was not simply in creating this masterplan, in setting his pieces in the right places on this chessboard of green but also in shaping their mood. He drew powerful performances from his players, made them believe in themselves and their strategy. Jesus and De Bruyne, City's scorers, were particularly immense, working with a relentless intensity.

But it was arguably Sterling's 17-minute cameo that turned the game, rising from the bench like a sharp stone from a catapult, aimed directly and devastatingly at Real's defence, playing a part in both goals. Having been left on the bench for 69 minutes by Brendan Rodgers when Liverpool were beaten here in 2014, Sterling was even more desperate to have an impact, especially with his name being linked to a move to the Bernabéu. He came on and terrorised Carvajal.

Guardiola deploys Jesus as left wing back

Pep Guardiola caused a stir with his team selection, leaving out Sergio Agüero and using Gabriel Jesus, normally a striker, in a role that involved plenty of defending before the headed finish that secured City's equalising goal

Jesus's touches last night



Average positions of City's starting XI



Real's right back had been a weak link throughout. After 20 minutes, De Bruyne released Jesus, who cut inside Carvajal but placed his shot at a good height for Thibaut Courtois to save.

That gave the 3,000 City fans up in the Gods some hope. They even broke off from their vocal evisceration of Uefa to sing Guardiola's name. On a night of many subplots — Zidane versus Guardiola, Jesus versus Carvajal — a major theme was City versus Uefa. It was inescapable.

“F*** Uefa” reverberated from the top tier behind Ederson's first-half goalmouth, the message heard all around the Bernabéu, as City fans intended. They object to what they perceive as the establishment's attempt to limit their spending, to keep oil-rich states and sugar daddies from shaking up the status quo. The visiting fans were certainly in mischievous, defiant mood, singing: “City going down with a billion in the bank”.



Jesus equalised for City although Real complained that he pushed Ramos in the build-up

AP PHOTO/BERNAT ARMANGUE

In discussions outside the ground, City fans pointed to the Glazers taking money out of Manchester United rather than putting in money to their club as their owners

do. They want other clubs, such as Paris Saint-Germain, pursued with similar vigour to the way that Uefa has gone after their own; fair's fair, if financial fair play is to work. Fair enough.

But for all the invective aimed at them, and Uefa officials cannot have missed the tirade from the away fans last night, Uefa cannot afford to lose this battle with the Etihad. The response from the wise heads at CAS could shape the new order of Europe.

Guardiola insisted afterwards that the dynamic of the tie was not affected by the Uefa case. Isco and Karim Benzema were enough to occupy any mind. Stymied in the centre, Real went wide just before the half-hour, Ferland Mendy hoisting in a high cross from the left that fell towards Nicolás Otamendi and Aymeric Laporte.



Isco had netted the opener for Real after excellent work from Vinícius

OSCAR DEL POZO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Benzema, reaching a century of Champions League appearances, was too quick and strong for them, leaping and steering a header that demanded the most athletic of saves from Ederson. Vinícius was first to the loose ball but unable to turn it in.

Laporte sustained an injury during the attack, with Guardiola indicating afterwards that he had aggravated a problem with his recently healed knee, which is desperate news. Fernandinho came on and City remained untroubled for the rest of the half and almost seized the lead. When Courtois flapped at De Bruyne's corner, Jesus's volley was blocked by Ramos, whose clearance almost went in but for Casemiro's intervention.

City began the second period with similar confidence. Mahrez twice went close but that ultimate sin in Guardiola's playbook, losing possession, briefly cost his side on the hour. Rodri and Otamendi were trying to control the situation but lost the ball to Luka Modric, Kyle Walker then gifted possession to Real and Vinícius countered before placing the ball across for Isco to score.

Match stats

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------|-----------------|---|
|  | Real Madrid | 1 - 2 | Manchester City |  |
| 4-3-3 | | | | 4-4-1-1 |
| Champions League20:00 Wednesday February 26 2020 | | | | |
| 48.7% | Possession | | | 51.3% |
| 9 | Shots | | | 16 |
| 3 | Shots on target | | | 8 |
| 1 | Corners | | | 4 |
| 13 | Fouls conceded | | | 10 |

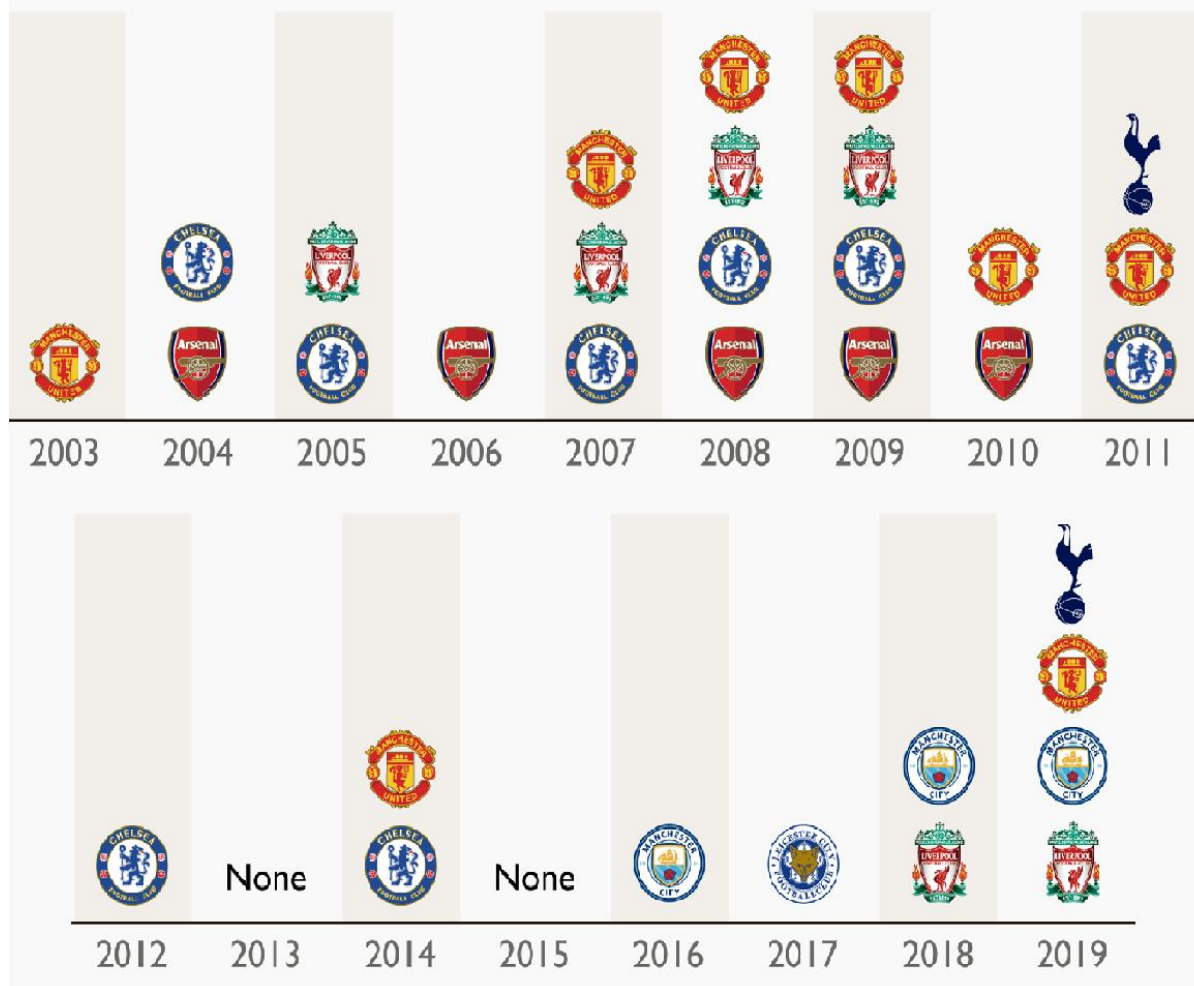
[View football match centre](#)

Real fans sat back and expected total onslaught but their team sat back and paid the price. City stayed strong and went for Real. Sterling replaced Bernardo and within five minutes ran on to Rodri's pass, holding the ball up before playing it back,

inviting De Bruyne to run into the box. The Belgian crossed, Real's defence froze and Jesus brushed Ramos out of the way and headed in.

Sterling's pace was too much and when Carvajal slid in six minutes later, Sterling crumbled to the turf, leaving referee Daniele Orsato little option but to point to the spot. De Bruyne duly sent Courtois the wrong way. Real's hopes for the second leg were hurt further when Ramos was sent off for fouling Jesus and thus banned for the Etihad leg. But the City banned play on.

English Champions League quarter-finalists since 2003



Man City v Real Madrid

Champions League

Round of 16, second leg

March 17

Kick-off 8pm TV: BT Sport 2

Comments are subject to our community guidelines, which can be viewed [here](#).

Comments(124)

Jon S

10 HOURS AGO

What's this - an article in the Times that mostly praises City (rightly so for their performance last night) without taking a swipe (well a small one - you obviously like the banned plays on witicism) at the club?? Perhaps the Times will get behind them for the CL.....I for one won't be holding my breath for this to happen.

Jon Goodman

11 HOURS AGO

Linking the current UEFA ban on Man City's participation in Champions League to a tremendous performance on the field is wholly irrational. Furthermore the Fair Play rules are designed to reduce the risk of Clubs becoming insolvent - NOT to create a level playing field to enable less affluent clubs to compete more effectively. Any sanction should be directed towards the owners and/or individuals responsible for a proven breach. Punishing supporters, players and coaching staff makes no sense.

neilnev

17 HOURS AGO

"The banned played on" Love it!

Report

Mrs Susan McHugh

21 HOURS AGO

The Times was so far up Real's backside for the last few days, it was hard to know where it ended and Real began. Cue lavish praise about City before Real go to the Etihad and knock them out.

The Times is on a real bad run at the moment. The knives were out for the England cricket team in SA, but no joy. Then it was Eddie Jones against Ireland, but no joy. Then it was Tyson Fury, but no joy. Now its City. Still no joy. Keep rolling the dice ToL, you'll get it right sooner or later.

Report

Freebooter

21 HOURS AGO

One of the most important things to come out of this match was how well VAR works in the CL and how crappy it is in the PL. Lessons to be learned.

Report

brian wright

23 HOURS AGO

Hope LFC get the same ref for their match against Atletico, a brave and outstanding performance from him.

Report

Balraj Sandhu

20 HOURS AGO

brian wright

We need the Oscar Academy to run the rule over Athletico's diving, feigning injury and an imagined bad tackle. It seems there are cheats all over the football world. Including here. But nowhere compares with the Madrid teams. They've got it to a fine art. Ask Sergio Ramos. Wait. He'll deny it.

Nick Harrington-Lewis

23 HOURS AGO

Some of the language regarding City's suspension is appalling here. Whether City have been judged fairly is yet to be seen but if they are in breach of FFP, and furthermore of covering it up, the excuse that the rules were unfair will not wash. They signed up to FFP and agreed to abide by the charter. For a far better balanced piece on the saga I encourage you to take a look at <https://theathletic.com/1637174/2020/02/26/manchester-city-ffp-uefa-cas/> It's behind a paywall unfortunately, but their coverage is excellent. FFP is a flawed system that benefits established clubs, that is certain. But this City good/ UEFA bad wrapped up in a match report is unpalatable.



City have to prove they are innocent, not just that UEFA's...

Showing the world they did nothing wrong is as important as getting any punishment overthrown on a t...

Jon S

10 HOURS AGO

Nick Harrington-Lewis

There has been very little of "City Good" to date. It's mostly been "City Bad" to be frank. Why doesn't UEFA and the football clubs jointly publish a league table, Europe-wide and transparent- showing where teams stand from a FFP perspective that everyone can understand? Would that be too much to ask (PSG, Real Madrid and some teams closer to home might squirm at this) Have all clubs been subjected to the same level of scrutiny? I doubt it. If the sometimes reported view that UEFA are trying in some way to prevent upstarts/noisy neighbours like City prospering and challenging the "established" clubs is correct, then UEFA are not fit to administer football. Looks like City have been targeted specifically based on the "evidence" of a computer hacker who is awaiting trial for computer hacking. Yes they have had a lot of investment but they have also used that funding well - not just in Manchester (the Etihad campus is a fabulous facility) but in other countries and teams - very forward thinking and we could do with more clubs following there lead instead of sucking money out of clubs. Newcastle fans deserve owners who would invest in their team and community the way that City's owners have

Report

Derek Pickett

20 HOURS AGO

Nick Harrington-Lewis

Great post Nick, I have no problem at all with City but they have signed up and agreed to the rules and IF they have tried to hide their dealings then they have done so to avoid punishment, ergo, cheat! I would much prefer to see them play in the champions league, and UEFA/FIFA (take your pick!) are as corrupt as they come, but....there are rules which all clubs must abide by. I will wait and see what the findings are with interest.

Good report Henry - one of your better one's.

Report

The Ref

1 DAY AGO

Amazing how Real Madrid become a poor side when they are beaten at home.

Ian Burgess

22 HOURS AGO

The Ref

And by City - had it been by either United or Liverpool it would be hailed as a miracle.

Report

Derek Pickett

1 DAY AGO

I cheered louder when Ramos was sent off then I did for the goals, an absolute horror of a man!
deanswift

20 HOURS AGO

Derek Pickett

yet we would all love him if he played for our team!

Edward Snowden

22 HOURS AGO

Derek Pickett

Yes good payback. He's got away with murder for years

Derek Pickett

20 HOURS AGO

Nick Harrington-Lewis

Great post Nick, I have no problem at all with City but they have signed up and agreed to the rules and IF they have tried to hide their dealings then they have done so to avoid punishment, ergo, cheat! I would much prefer to see them play in the champions league, and UEFA/FIFA (take your pick!) are as corrupt as they come, but....there are rules which all clubs must abide by. I will wait and see what the findings are with interest.

MinchMan

1 DAY AGO

Good report Henry - one of your better one's.

The Ref

1 DAY AGO

Amazing how Real Madrid become a poor side when they are beaten at home.

Ian Burgess

22 HOURS AGO

The Ref

And by City - had it been by either United or Liverpool it would be hailed as a miracle.

Derek Pickett

1 DAY AGO

I cheered louder when Ramos was sent off then I did for the goals, an absolute horror of a man!

deanswift

20 HOURS AGO

Derek Pickett

yet we would all love him if he played for our team!

McGiff

17 HOURS AGO

deanswift

I honestly don't think I would!

Ranger4

19 HOURS AGO

deanswift

He is one of those players who you love if he plays for your team. Hate him if he doesn't. 27 red cards hides the fact that he is a really good player.

McGiff

17 HOURS AGO

Ranger4

More like 27 red cards disguises the fact that he can play. He just chooses to be a tw&t.

Edward Snowden

22 HOURS AGO

Derek Pickett

Yes good payback. He's got away with murder for years

Report

Gordon Sweetzer

22 HOURS AGO

Edward Snowden

Some poor tackles maybe, but Murder ? perhaps a little hyperbolic

Jonathan Lee

1 DAY AGO

Ramos sent off. Couldn't happen to a more deserving player.

Report

Stelling

1 DAY AGO

Jonathan Lee

Edited

He should be sent off in every game he plays !

[Reply](#)

Dick the Diver

1 DAY AGO

Guardiola is a master. The fact that the Premiership can attract managers of the calibre of Pep should not be under- estimated. With young English managers like Howe, Lampard and Dyche up against him and other top CL winning managers like Mourinho and Ancelotti every week they are being tested against the best.

Brexit Blue

1 DAY AGO

Dick the Diver

Good point, Dick. Klopp not shabby either and I don't support Pool. Arteta seems to have something about him too. Some top tacticians for young managers to learn from.

Michael

1 DAY AGO

wonderful performance by the blues, a pep masterclass. a well deserved victory, although if you listened to bt sport, you would have thought differently. i wonder why mchmananan is so anti city - he thought jesus fouled ramos for the first goal, dived to win the penalty, dived to get ramos sent off, until he conceded that from his position, he couldn't really be sure. so happy ramos was sent

Mrs Susan McHugh

21 HOURS AGO

Michael

Macca must get loads of grief off his Scouse mates for playing for City. So he probably just overeggs his pudding to show his loyalty.

vis-a-vis

22 HOURS AGO

Michael

McManaman used to be a ball boy at Real some while ago!

Report

Mr C Fernandes

1 DAY AGO

For once we see a referee bold enough to do the right thing and send off a player who has got away with so much over the years.

AlJ-2True

23 HOURS AGO

Mr C Fernandes

100% agree - yes he's had a lot of red cards but he's a very clever cheat and as Brian says - tip of an ice-berg.

Nick Harrington-Lewis

23 HOURS AGO

Mr C Fernandes

Ramos has got away with very little over the years. His red card record demonstrates that.

S*ithousery is not, in itself, a red card offence.

ian holms

1 DAY AGO

How many penalties have Man City had this season? And how many times has Sterling

“crumbled to the ground”?

Edward Snowden

22 HOURS AGO

ian holms

Yes funny how you crumble when someone takes your legs out 🤖

Unacceptable truth

23 HOURS AGO

ian holms

If you get fouled it's a penalty, those are the rules. Running at speed and being fouled does have a 'crumbling' effect on anyone.

disgruntled of heswall

20 HOURS AGO

Unacceptable truth

Crumbling being far preferable to diving.

DoINotLikeThat

1 DAY AGO

A word for the referee: courageous, decisive and accurate. Immense performance, which made me wonder why we don't see such calibre in premier league refereeing.

martyrt

1 DAY AGO

Great report. Sports writing at its best.

livewirexx

1 DAY AGO

After talking Real up for the last 2 days the times has to do a U turn.

Bad Lad

1 DAY AGO

Well done City!

Reader

1 DAY AGO

so happy for 'dark arts' ramos to fail to get decision and then get himself sent off - tho city would likely have preferred goal 3. think Liverpool will find it hard to get past atletico unless ref is alive to the games they will play, and get liverpool players wound up. Liverpool v Man City final would be great from our perspective, but Bayern look awesome also so deserve to be there (tho muller is also another play actor). hopefully barca dont make it as they are always saying they are entitled ...

Richard Pethybridge

1 DAY AGO

Ramos sent off? Only 21 months too late. Couldn't have happened to anyone more appropriate.

Report

Vince's cable

1 DAY AGO

Richard Pethybridge

The irony od course is that he may have just kept the tie alive for Real.....still, an absolute pleasure to see him walk off:)

William Hardy

1 DAY AGO

Nice to read such support for city If CAS find in Eufa, favour it will be bad for Manchester, bad for the Premier league , bad for Europe and bad for the business of football. The fair play rules, as the stand, make no sense at all.

Report

Richard J

1 DAY AGO

William Hardy

Clearly as blinkered as ever. A win in Madrid doesn't mean that all's well with City!

livewirexx

20 HOURS AGO

Richard J

All you can do is win your game. Clearly there is a second leg, nothing you can do about that.

William Hardy

1 DAY AGO

Richard J

Clearly a United supporter

Michael Watson

1 DAY AGO

Richard J

Slightly more impressive than a home win over Watford though...

Graeme Hughes

1 DAY AGO

William Hardy

Educate yourself

Martin Twyman

1 DAY AGO

Plenty for the FFP/empty seat police to chew on there....

WATP

1 DAY AGO

Well done City good luck at home from a Liverpool fan we are not all tribal idiots

disgruntled of heswall

20 HOURS AGO

WATP

Except when it comes to Man U. Would have said the same about Everton but they don't appear in Europe too often, nowadays ...

Michael

1 DAY AGO

WATP

a very welcome comment - thank you. i similarly salute you on a wonderful, nearly perfect season in the PL. enjoy the victory you are unfortunately in a minority on these pages though!

oompathoompa

1 DAY AGO

Michael

No he's not.

Michael Fierstone

1 DAY AGO

I was high at the Bernabau last night to see a very impressive City team pass and move around an average Real Madrid. It's amazing how with no centre forward (Gill played on the wing) they controlled the game and created so many clear chances. I hope Mourinho was watching.

Patmike

1 DAY AGO

Even though he probably should've scored another, Gabriel Jesus was superb, he seemed to be everywhere on the pitch.

Moor Park

1 DAY AGO

Will UEFA accept that the better team won - or is a committee looking to overturn the result?

Well done Man C

Mike Davies

1 DAY AGO

I'm a Chelsea fan. Nice work Pep and ManC. A really good watch.

Martin L

1 DAY AGO

Sterling, on the road to nowhere, dived as usual. Watch his legs crumble just before the challenge. He has a lot of principles but none seem to apply to cheating. Bet the the ref pocketed a bit from City's fraud fund!

neilnev

17 HOURS AGO

Martin L

Another bitter. I, too, also thought on first viewing (live) that it was a "dodgy" penalty. On watching the replay, it was an absolutely clear penalty. He was going nowhere - Carvahal's fault for diving in on him.

disgruntled of heswall

20 HOURS AGO

Martin L

Sterling's principles are Sterling's. His modus operandi seems to fit his diminutive, petulant character.

Ad valorem

1 DAY AGO

Worth reading for that last sentence alone!

Mr Blue

1 DAY AGO

A strong never say die performance, very proud!

Mr Edge

1 DAY AGO

I was glad the ref didnt buy Ramos rather sad antics and correctly allowed City's equaliser to stand. Whilst he got a slight push, he then jumps and tries to head the ball, only going down and claiming a foul after he misses the header. He also feel the wrong way, as the push would have sent him forwards.

Edward Snowden

22 HOURS AGO

Mr Edge

Exactly

bluemoonrising

1 DAY AGO

Ramos now moves onto 26 red cards? What an odious piece of work.

Wilson

1 DAY AGO

bluemoonrising

He's a disgrace

neilnev

17 HOURS AGO

Wilson

The Eagles were talking about their manager, Irving Azoff. They said that he may be devil (or satan - can't remember which) but he's our devil/satan. Same as Ramos.

Jezinho

1 DAY AGO

Wilson

Eric Dier's physical challenge on him during one of England's Nations Cup matches v. Spain was my highlight of the season.

James Sinclair

1 DAY AGO*Edited*

A Pep masterclass indeed. Let us now please forget about the "false 9", how about the "absent 9"

? It kinda made our dear friend Ramos, look a little lost...x

Wayne Jaffe

1 DAY AGO

Also writing from madrid after finally being released from the stadium. City deserved it,the real fans were so quiet apart from when they scored. The only way real were going to score was by city mistakes and so it proved. A good victory for a premier league club and they have more than enough to go through. Still think they should be banned though!

Andy Leggott

1 DAY AGO

In Madrid. A great night. The night City arrived? Maybe. A big win against a cartel club ...

hopefully a sign of the times. Enjoy Senor Tebas ... that one was for you. Up the blues

Matt

1 DAY AGO

Pep masterclass

Voice from the Wirral

1 DAY AGO*Edited*

Pep Guardiola has now been to the Bernabéu nine times as a manager, and he's only lost once.

Cl

1 DAY AGO

Ironic that UEFA want to ban a team that invests in the community, in the club infrastructure and in the team to deliver football of the highest order. Shame on UEFA to seek to protect the elite by allowing the application of flawed FFP rules. If they truly wanted to control clubs getting into unsustainable debt, then surely the one measure that should be included in any FFP rules would be the indebtedness of a club, but of course, most of the elite would have failed that test !

Richard J

1 DAY AGO

Cl

Rules is rules!

Stuart

1 DAY AGO

Cl

Exactly right. They built a system to protect the cartel, not small clubs like Bolton and Bury. As you say, they can't apply a capital requirements/debt limit test as all the 'old money' clubs are up to their necks in debt.

Ken

1 DAY AGO

A very sweet result for all City fans. A tactical masterclass by Pep. De Bruyne superb and an inspirational captain. RM, the serial CL winners, outclassed and outfought at their own stadium. City showing the other PL sides in the CL how to perform. This could well be City's year. Let's hope so. And now let's take the legal fight to UEFA and destroy their elitist vendetta against City. No more so called "FFP" protectionism of the established elite cartel that has dominated European football far too long. We fight to the end! Upwards and onwards!

Richard J

1 DAY AGO

Ken

Agree about the good City performance but let's get real about Real - they're not great! As for the clap trap about the elitist vendetta against poor old Project Manchester - as blinkered as ever!

Unacceptable truth

22 HOURS AGO

Richard J

The only blinkers are on those who think the vendetta is only against City. The cartel and it's tactics are to prevent Newcastle, Everton, Villa, Forest, Leeds, Bolton and yes, Oldham and the rest from ever challenging the status quo!! If you believe that to be blinkered perhaps it suits your agenda to see the same old same old every year.

Midnight Oil

1 DAY AGO

Ken

We have a new Belgian captain with KDB who demonstrated his talent and Pep showed tactical genius to beat Real at home. It was really refreshing that VAR played NO part in the proceedings, so credit to the ref. Finally, we can't wait to see and hear:) the return match in Manchester!

Kevin McGuinness

1 DAY AGO

The banned play on is a good headline Henry but you've wrung the life out of it now mate

Philip E

1 DAY AGO

Awesome performance - RM are the most cunning cheats in Europe s and City out Cunninged them!

Beak Wiskins

1 DAY AGO

Philip E

And as for Ramos....

mark longrigg

1 DAY AGO

Playing the Burnley way. Good on you lot

DeeTee

1 DAY AGO

Congrats City & Pep - from 30 miles down the East Lancs Road. Great performance and result.

Englishman

1 DAY AGO

Deservedly won, but Sterling diving before any tackle made with the ball going out. Jesus also goes down under the slightest touch from Ramos. Delighted to see Ramos off as he has been a clever cheater for years. City cheat with their finances and with their dives.

[Reply](#)

DoINotLikeThat

1 DAY AGO

Englishman

Edited

Sterling didn't dive. Neither did Gabriel. Ever been caught at speed? Nailed on pen and nearly a second one.

Frank Green

1 DAY AGO

Englishman

At last! A bold member of the Bitter Brigade speaks out! Shame you can't compose a sensible comment though. Deservedly won is correct.

Vince's cable

1 DAY AGO

Frank Green

It's difficult to write through those bitter tears. Maybe he's being ironic as he references dodgy finance and diving which of course are synonymous with Madrid. Perhaps I'm crediting him with too much intelligence though.

sultan

1 DAY AGO

Ramos send off ? Couldn't happen to a nicer fella!

DoI NotLikeThat

1 DAY AGO

sultan

I loved it that Ramos went for his most cunning trick - the tug on the shoulder on the blind side of the ref. Although, I do wish Arsenal had a Ramos... Great refereeing last night - very courageous, spot on, immediate decision making.

neilnev

17 HOURS AGO

DoINotLikeThat

Jesus was fortunate that his shoulder injury wasn't as severe as Mo Salah's.

Flash

1 DAY AGO

Fantastic away performance. One of the best I've seen. Tactics, effort, concentration. A credit to their club - all of them.

Vince's cable

1 DAY AGO

Flash

Agreed. Made RM look ordinary in the end. A joy to watch.